(ङ) वर्ष 1994-95 के लिए 40 करोड़ रु० की धनराशि आबंटित की गई। वर्ष 1994-95 के लिए निगम के अंतिम अनुपूरक अनुदान में 23.77 करोड़ रु० की धनराशि शामिल की गई है।

Fund for providing employment to minority community

1914. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up a fund for providing employment opportunities to the members belonging to minority community in the country; and

(b) if so, the details and reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI K. V. THANGKA BALU): (a) and (b) There is no such proposal in the Ministry of Welfare. However, the National Minorities Development and Financial Corporation has been set up as a company not for profit with an authorised share capital of Rs. 500/- crores with the main object of providing financial assistance to backward sections amongst the minorities to provide them avenues for gainful self-employment.

Commission for monitoring social development

1915. SHRI SUNDER SINGH BHANDARI: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to appoint a public commission for monitoring social development: and

(b) if so, what are the details of the different aspects thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI K. V. THANGKA BALU): (a) and (b) In his address of 10th March, 1995, to the World Summit on Social Development held in Copenhagen, the Prime Minister made an announcement regarding setting up of a suitable and effective mechanism for Social Development at the National level.

Opening of Ashram School for SC/ST students

1916. SHRI GUNDAPPA KORWAR: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Gujarat has submitted any proposal to the Union Government for opening Ashram Schools for the Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe Students in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when this proposal is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI K. V. THANGKA BALU): (a) to (c) A proposal was received for establishment of 25 Ashram Schools in Tribal Sub Plan areas during 1994-95. The proposal could not be considered as the locations of the proposed Ashram Schools were not indicated. The Government of Gujarat has accordingly been advised to intimate the locations. On receipt of the clarification the proposal will be considered.

This Ministry has no scheme of Ashram Schools for Scheduled Castes at present.

Recognition of Social Group as backward class

1917. SHRI GUNDAPPA KORWAR: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of social groups which have so far approached the National Commission on backward class for recognition as backward class; and

(b) whether the National Commission has prescribed a questionnaire for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI K. V. THANGKA BALU): (a) The State-wise names of social groups which have so far approached the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) for recognition as Backward Class are given in the Annexure. [*See* Appendix 173, Annexure 40].

(b) Yes, Sir.

Financial assistance to voluntary organisation

1918. SHRI GUNDAPPA KORWAR: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications for financial assistance received by Government from the various voluntary organisations in the country during each of the last three years and the current year, State/Union Territory-wise;

(b) the number of applications approved out of them by Government alongwith the assistance provided State/Union Territory-wise; and

(c) the number of applications pending for approval?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI K. V. THANGKA BALU): (a) to (c) A statement is Annexed. [*See* Appendix 173, Annexure No. 41].

Facilities to SC ST students going abroad for higher studies

1919. SHRI GUNDAPPA KORWAR: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe students sent abroad for higher education during the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise;

(b) the facilities provided by Government to them for getting higher education; and

(c) the number and details of scholarship provided under the scheme of national overseas scholarships?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI K. V. THANGKA BALU): (a) A statement showing the number of Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe students sent abroad for higher education during the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise is given in the enclosed statement. (*See* below).

(b) Welfare Ministry's National Scheme of Overseas Scholarship for Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe, etc. students provides for:

(i) Maintenance allowance:

US $ 5940 per annum for Bachelor's degree in Priting Technology,

US $ 6600 per annum for Master's degree in prescribed courses/Ph.D.

US $ 7700 per annum for Post Doctoral research/training;

(ii) Tuition and other compulsory University fee and medical insurance premia, if any;

(iii) Contigency allowance up to US $385 per annum for books/essential apparatus / study tour/typing and binding of thesis;

(iv) UP to US $15 to cover incidental journey expenses;

(v) Equipment allowance of Rs. 1100/-; and